

COUNCIL

Agenda # _____

MEETING OF July 27, 2004



STAFF REPORT

RESOLUTION REQUESTING COMCAST OF CALIFORNIA IX, INC. TO PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL DISCOUNT FOR CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE TO SENIOR AND DISABLED CITIZENS

Mayor and City Council

Summary

On July 13, 2004, Council directed staff to prepare a resolution urging Comcast of California IX, Inc. to provide a discount rate to senior and disabled citizens for cable television service. Staff recommends Council adoption of the attached resolution, which will formally notify Comcast and our Samcat partners of Council's request and to allow the item to be added to our negotiations.

Background and Discussion

A resident contacted members of the City Council asking about senior discounts for cable TV, which are available in some other communities. The cable provider, not the city, has control over whether or not there is a discount.

The City is interested in having a discount available to the senior and disabled residents of the City of Belmont. Staff has researched this and has learned that Comcast has not previously provided nor made provisions for a discounted rate.

Staff believes it is in the best interest of the City to be able to provide this discount and urges Comcast to provide a meaningful discount to seniors and disabled residents. The City and its Samcat partners are currently negotiating a franchise agreement with Comcast.

Fiscal Impact

None

Recommendation

Staff recommends Council approve the attached resolution.

Alternatives

1. Refer matter back to staff for more information.
2. Take no action

Attachments

1. Resolution

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Harnish
Information Services Manager

Daniel Rich
Assistant City Manager

Jere A. Kersnar
City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT REQUESTING
COMCAST OF CALIFORNIA IX, INC. TO PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL DISCOUNT FOR
CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE TO SENIOR AND DISABLED CITIZENS

WHEREAS, Comcast currently holds a franchise to operate a cable television system in Belmont, California; and

WHEREAS, Comcast is the only cable television franchisee in Belmont, California that is currently providing cable television service; and

WHEREAS, many senior and disabled citizens within Belmont, California are on fixed incomes and may have difficulty affording the monthly cable television service subscriptions; and

WHEREAS, cable television is of great benefit to senior and disabled citizens, especially those who are physically limited in their ability to be away from home; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of Belmont, California that Comcast provide a discount to senior and disabled citizens for cable television service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Belmont, California:

1. That the Belmont City Council hereby goes on record as requesting Comcast to provide a meaningful discount to senior and disabled citizens for cable television service.
2. That the Belmont City Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Ms. Kathi Noe, Director of Government Affairs and Franchising of Comcast.
3. That the Belmont City Clerk send copies of this resolution to all members of Samcat with a letter from the Mayor urging those agencies to pass similar resolutions.

* * * * *

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Belmont at a regular meeting thereof held on July 27, 2004 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

NOES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSTAIN, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

CLERK of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

MAYOR of the City of Belmont